Draw Atlas Holding the World: Pose and Sphere Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a figure with feet 10 cm apart, head height 4 cm, and a globe diameter of 6 cm. The globe center is 3 cm above the head. Check balance and proportion.

Answer: Feet are wider than hips, so stance is stable. Globe diameter is 1.5 times head height (6 divided by 4 equals 1.5). Globe center is 3 cm above head, leaving arm space. Plumb line from head falls between feet. All units are centimeters.

Reason: The arithmetic compares globe diameter to head height and checks vertical placement. A stable stance requires feet wider than hips and a plumb line between feet.

Check: Measure feet distance, head height, and globe diameter with a ruler. Divide globe diameter by head height. Confirm the plumb line falls between the feet.

Task 2

A globe circle measures 5 cm wide and 5 cm high. The equator ellipse is drawn at the circle's midline. A second ellipse is tilted 30 degrees. Describe how to check the sphere construction and hand placement.

Answer: Width equals height, so the circle is round. The equator ellipse should cross the circle at its widest point. The tilted ellipse should suggest depth without changing the circle's outline. Place hands near the equator on opposite sides. Check that both hand contact points are roughly level.

Reason: A sphere is constructed from a circle plus ellipses. Equal width and height confirm roundness. Hand placement near the equator supports the sphere visually.

Check: Measure width and height of the circle. Confirm the equator ellipse passes through the midline. Check that hand contact points are near the equator and roughly opposite.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw Atlas with one foot forward and a weight-transfer line from the forward foot through the hip to the shoulder. The head height is 3.5 cm and the globe diameter is 5.25 cm. Check the proportion and stance.

Answer: Globe diameter is 1.5 times head height (5.25 divided by 3.5 equals 1.5). The weight-transfer line shows the forward foot supporting the body. A plumb line from the head should fall between the feet. All measurements are in centimeters.

Reason: The weight-transfer line connects the support foot to the upper body. The proportion check uses division. Balance is confirmed by the plumb line.

Check: Measure head height and globe diameter; divide. Draw a plumb line from the head and confirm it falls between the feet. Check that the weight-transfer line reaches the shoulder.

Task 4

A drawing has arms that measure 7 cm from left shoulder to wrist and 6 cm from right shoulder to wrist. The globe is 4 cm in diameter. Suggest a fix and a check method.

Answer: Adjust the right elbow position to lengthen the right arm to about 7 cm, or shorten the left arm slightly. Keep hand contact points near the equator. Check by measuring both arms from shoulder to wrist and comparing. The globe diameter of 4 cm is a separate proportion check.

Reason: Similar arm lengths improve the pose's readability. Adjusting the elbow changes arm length without stretching the hand. Measuring both arms confirms the fix.

Check: Measure each arm from shoulder to wrist with a ruler. Compare lengths. Confirm hand contact points remain near the equator and roughly opposite.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Figure stance shows clear weight transfer and balance.
- [ ] Globe is constructed as a sphere with equator and tilted ellipses.
- [ ] Hands contact the sphere at two roughly opposite points.
- [ ] Arm lengths are similar from shoulder to wrist.
- [ ] Labels use lowercase with x-height from baseline to midline; letter styles may vary.
- [ ] Measurements use one consistent unit system.
- [ ] Drawing is legible and construction lines are lightly erased after refinement.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?